

Replace the paragraph appearing at page 9, line 22 – page 10, line 2, with the following paragraph:

*A2*  
It will be appreciated that the surface area of the alumina particles of the recording medium of the present invention is largely a function of the mean diameter of the primary particles, rather than the mean diameter of the aggregates. The alumina particles of the recording medium of the present invention can have any suitable surface area. While the alumina particles of the recording medium of the present invention can have a surface area of up to about 400 m<sup>2</sup>/g (e.g., about 20-400 m<sup>2</sup>/g), it is preferred that the surface area of the alumina particles of the recording medium of the present invention have a surface area of less than about 200 m<sup>2</sup>/g, more preferably less than about 150 m<sup>2</sup>/g. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the alumina particles of the recording medium of the present invention have a surface area of less than about 400 m<sup>2</sup>/g (e.g., about 15-300 m<sup>2</sup>/g, more preferably about 20-200 m<sup>2</sup>/g, more preferably about 30-80 m<sup>2</sup>/g, and most preferably about 40-60 m<sup>2</sup>/g).

*IN THE CLAIMS:*

Replace the indicated claims with:

*A3 sub C 3*  
5. (Amended) The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the aggregates have a mean diameter of less than about 1  $\mu$ m.

*A4*  
10. (Amended) The coating composition of claim 8, wherein the aggregates have a mean diameter of less than about 1  $\mu$ m.

*A5*  
15. (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the aggregates have a mean diameter of less than about 1  $\mu$ m.

Add the following claims:

*A6*  
5 C 6  
29. (New) The recording medium of claim 5, wherein the aggregates have a mean diameter of about 80-300 nm.

30. (New) The recording medium of claim 29, wherein the aggregates have a mean diameter of about 100-200 nm.

~~31. (New) The recording medium of claim 6, wherein the aggregates have a surface area of about 20-200 m<sup>2</sup>/g.~~ B

~~32. (New) The recording medium of claim 31, wherein the aggregates have a surface area of about 30-80 m<sup>2</sup>/g.~~

~~33. (New) The recording medium of claim 32, wherein the aggregates have a surface area of about 40-60 m<sup>2</sup>/g.~~

~~34. (New) The coating composition of claim 10, wherein the aggregates have a mean diameter of about 80-300 nm.~~

~~35. (New) The coating composition of claim 34, wherein the aggregates have a mean diameter of about 100-200 nm.~~

~~36. (New) The coating composition of claim 11, wherein the aggregates have a surface area of about 20-200 m<sup>2</sup>/g.~~

~~37. (New) The coating composition of claim 36, wherein the aggregates have a surface area of about 30-80 m<sup>2</sup>/g.~~ B

~~38. (New) The coating composition of claim 37, wherein the aggregates have a surface area of about 40-60 m<sup>2</sup>/g.~~

~~39. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the aggregates have a mean diameter of about 80-300 nm.~~

~~40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the aggregates have a mean diameter of about 100-200 nm.~~

~~41. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the aggregates have a surface area of about 20-200 m<sup>2</sup>/g.~~

~~42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the aggregates have a surface area of about 30-80 m<sup>2</sup>/g.~~

*Al Goss* ~~43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the aggregates have a surface area of about 40-60 m<sup>2</sup>/g.~~